

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01

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R 161257Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS:AODE, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: MODE - DEA PROPOSAL FOR NEW OFFICE

REFS: BOGOTA 11105, 12/18/74; STATE 239737, 10/31/74;
BOGOTA 9898, 11/7/74; BOGOTA 8755, 10/01/74; STATE 208827,
9/21/74; BOGOTA 8095, 9/10/74; AND STATE 184025, 8/21/74

1. DEA HAS REVIVED PROPOSAL TO OPEN AN OFFICE AT CALI
WITH TWO OFFICERS AND ONE CLERK. REFERENCES DISCUSSED
SIMILAR PROPOSAL IN FY-75.

2. REVIVED DEA PROPOSAL WOULD STAFF CALI BY USING ONE OF
THE SLOTS PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED FOR BOGOTA, PLUS TWO NEW
SPACES. JUSTIFICATION FOR NEW PROPOSAL READS: QUOTE.
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ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENT: ESTABLISH NEW DISTRICT OFFICE:
SPECIAL AGENT-IN-CHARGE, SPECIAL AGENT, AND CLERICAL.

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FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF COCAINE ENTERING THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN COLOMBIA. TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS BASED IN COLOMBIA ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION OF COCAINE TO ALMOST EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND WESTERN EUROPE.

COLOMBIAN NATIONALS ACCOUNTED FOR FULLY 73 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ARRESSTS OF SOUTH AMERICANS ON DRUG CHARGES IN THE UNITED STATES DURING FY-75.

COLOMBIA'S CONTINUED DOMINATION OF THE COCAINE TRAFFIC REQUIRES THAT DEA REASSESS ITS ENFORCEMENT POSTURE IN THAT COUNTRY. GREATER PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN COLOMBIA BY ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN THE CITY OF CALI, ONE OF THE MAJOR TRAFFICKING CENTERS IN THAT COUNTRY. CALI'S CLOSE PROXIMITY TO BUENAVENTURA, THE ONLY IMPORTANT PORT ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN, MAKES IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. FURTHER, IN EXCESS OF HALF OF COLOMBIA'S FOREIGN TRADE PASSES THROUGH CALI ENROUTE TO OR FROM BUENAVENTURA AND CALI ITSELF IS AN IMPORTANT AIR AND RAIL CENTER.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CALI IN THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC WAS RECENTLY UNDERSCORED BY THE SEIZURE OF APPROXIMATELY 407 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE BASE. THIS SEIZURE RESULTED FROM THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES AND TDY DEA AGENTS AND REPRESENTS THE LARGEST KNOWN SEIZURE OF COCA ALKALOIDS EVER MADE. WITH A PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN THE CALI AREA, IT IS FELT THAT EVEN MORE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

BY LOCATING TWO AGENTS IN CALI, DEA EXPECTS TO AVOID THE COSTLY PROCESS OF SENDING TDY AGENTS FROM BOGOTA; THIS WILL ALSO PERMIT THE BOGOTA DISTRICT OFFICE TO MORE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE ITS OWN PERSONNEL RESOURCES. FREQUENT AND THUS MORE EFFECTIVE LIAISON WILL ALSO BE POSSIBLE WITH POLICE OFFICIALS IN THE CALI/BUENAVENTURA AREA.

DEA BELIEVES THAT A LONG-TERM IMPACT UPON THE COLOMBIAN COCAINE TRAFFIC IS NOT POSSIBLE AS LONG AS DEA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE IS LIMITED TO THE BOGOTA AREA. CONSEQUENTLY, DEA PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT OFFICE IN CALI. THIS OFFICE WILL RELIEVE THE BOGOTA DISTRICT OFFICE WORKLOAD SO THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE BOGOTA DISTRICT OFFICE CEILING BY ONE. THIS POSITION WILL BE SHIFTED TO CALI SO THAT A NET INCREASE OF ONLY ONE AGENT AND ONE SECRETARY IS NECESSARY. END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WE NEED COM COMMENTS TO
FACILITATE DECISION REGARDING REVIVED PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, COCAINE, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE063211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PEPESCE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760098-0904
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760355/aaaabwod.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN MMO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BOGOTA 11105, 76 STATE 239737
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE - DEA PROPOSAL FOR NEW OFFICE
TAGS: AODE, SNAR, CO
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006